

Philadelphia, PA - St. Joseph's Home / Gonzaga Home

Archives of the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

2026



Creator: St. Joseph's Home (Philadelphia), Gonzaga Home, St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum (Philadelphia)

Title: Philadelphia, PA - St. Joseph's Home / Gonzaga Home

Dates: 1753-2010

Extent: 21 Boxes, 11 linear feet

Identification: NE-STHGPPA

Language: English

Subjects: St. Joseph's Home (Philadelphia, PA)
Catholic history - history
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul - United States
Orphan Asylum (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Orphan Asylums
Orphanages
Orphanages - Pennsylvania
Social service - Pennsylvania - Philadelphia
Social service - Religious aspects - Catholic Church

Historical Note

St. Joseph's Asylum was founded in 1797 by a group of laymen in Philadelphia in the wake of a deadly yellow fever epidemic. It was incorporated in 1807 and first staffed by the then-Sisters of St. Joseph in 1814. This was the first mission outside of Emmitsburg, MD. The Asylum gradually grew at its building on the corner of 7th and Spruce Streets, with much of the growth directed by Sr. Mary Gonzaga Grace, who first arrived in 1829. With the exception of two short periods elsewhere, Sister would remain at St. Joseph's until her death in 1897. By the last decade of the 19th century, the Asylum housed around 200 children, and the need to care for more children in the growing city led to a new facility called the Gonzaga Memorial in the Germantown neighborhood. This outlying area was thought to be a better location for children than the busier Center City building. In addition, the aging building, expense of maintenance, and lack of outdoor space for the children to play led to the merger of St. Joseph's and Gonzaga Memorial in 1944, at which point all the children were transferred to Germantown. The building at 7th and Spruce has since been renovated and still stands today. The new merged facility continued to operate for the next several decades. However, significant changes occurred in the care of orphans. Many more children were put in foster homes instead of institutions, and the few who were not often required treatment for various ailments, which greatly increased expenses for the Daughters of Charity. Because of this, St. Joseph's closed in 1984.

Scope and Contents

Manuscripts, Reports, History, Legal and Financial Documents, Correspondence, Publications, Artifacts, and Photographs

System of Arrangement

Arranged in 13 Series: 1) Administration, 2) History, 3) Correspondence, 4) Financial, 5) Legal, 6) Publications, 7) Newspaper clippings, 8) Audio-visual, 9) Programs, 10) Personnel, 11) Daughter of Charity Documents, 12) Artifacts and Memorabilia, 13) Closing of Mission

Conditions Governing Access

Records of admissions and discharges restricted for 75 years after creation. Certain legal materials related to board minutes and bequests restricted for 100 years. Series 11 "Daughters of Charity Documents" restricted to members of community only.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission for any type of publication of archival materials, including text, photographs, video, or audio must be secured from the Daughters of Charity Communications Director before publication. Contact archives staff for appropriate forms and contact information.

Custodial History

Formerly part of the Archives of the Northeast Province of the Daughters of Charity, Albany, NY.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise during provincial merger of 2011

Preferred Citation Format

Document/File Name, RG #, Collection Name, Daughters of Charity Archives, Province of St. Louise, Emmitsburg, MD

Inventory

See attached inventory for inventory. Restricted files not listed.

Manuscripts

RG Number	Title	Series Name	Sub-series	Box/Drawer	Folder	Item Number	Collection Type	DateFrom	DateTo
11-0	Deeds - Indentures	St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum		11		# 1	Flat File	1/1/1753	1/1/1857
11-0	Drawing - Property - Wayne, PA			11		# 1	Flat File		
11-0	Indentures - Map	St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum		11		# 2	Flat File		
11-0	Map			11		# 3	Flat File		
11-0	Second Floor Convent Plan	Summer Residence		11		# 4	Flat File	1/1/1964	
11-0	Elevations	Summer Residence		11		# 5	Flat File	1/1/1964	
11-0	Map	New Home for Girls and Convent		11		# 6	Flat File	1/1/1966	
11-0	Second Floor Convent Plan	Summer Residence		11		# 7	Flat File	1/1/1964	
11-4-1	Organization Charts	Administration		1	1		Manuscript		
11-4-1	Program Descriptions	Administration		1	2		Manuscript	1/1/1966	1/1/1983
11-4-1	First Communion Records	Administration		1	3		Manuscript	1/1/1895	1/1/1976
11-4-1	Confirmation Records	Administration		1	4		Manuscript	1/1/1895	1/1/1960
11-4-1-1	Philosophy Statements	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	1		Manuscript		
11-4-1-1	Activities Program Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	2		Manuscript		
11-4-1-1	Administrative Handbook	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	3		Manuscript	1/1/1977	1/1/1977
11-4-1-1	Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations Leadership Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	4		Manuscript	1/1/1972	1/1/1972
11-4-1-1	Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations Leadership Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	5		Manuscript	1/1/1972	1/1/1972
11-4-1-1	Child Care Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	6		Manuscript	1/1/1972	1/1/1972
11-4-1-1	Child Care Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	7		Manuscript	1/1/1980	1/1/1980
11-4-1-1	Child Care Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	2	8		Manuscript	1/1/1983	1/1/1983
11-4-1-1	Job Description Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	3	1		Manuscript	1/1/1980	1/1/1980
11-4-1-1	Job Description Manual	Administration	Policies and Procedures	3	2		Manuscript	1/1/1983	1/1/1983
11-4-1-1	Policies and Procedures - Catholic Social Services	Administration	Policies and Procedures	3	3		Manuscript	1/1/1972	1/1/1972

Manuscripts

RG Number	Title	Series Name	Sub-series	Box/Drawer	Folder	Item Number	Collection Type	DateFrom	DateTo
11-4-1-1	Manual of Practice for Social Service Department	Administration	Policies and Procedures	3	4		Manuscript	1/1/1974	1/1/1974
11-4-1-1	Personnel Policies	Administration	Policies and Procedures	3	5		Manuscript	1/1/1973	1/1/1973
11-4-1-1	Personnel Policies	Administration	Policies and Procedures	3	6		Manuscript	1/1/1978	1/1/1978
11-4-1-1	Personnel Policies	Administration	Policies and Procedures	4	1		Manuscript	1/1/1980	1/1/1980
11-4-1-1	Policies and Procedures	Administration	Policies and Procedures	4	2		Manuscript	1/1/1983	1/1/1983
11-4-1-1	Volunteer Guide	Administration	Policies and Procedures	4	3		Manuscript		
11-4-1-1	Miscellaneous Procedures	Administration	Policies and Procedures	4	4		Manuscript		
11-4-1-2	Reports	Administration	Administrative Reports	4	5		Manuscript	1/1/1944	1/1/1980
11-4-1-2	Annual Reports	Administration	Administrative Reports	4	6		Manuscript	1/1/1850	1/1/1858
11-4-1-2	Annual Reports	Administration	Administrative Reports	4	7		Manuscript	1/1/1900	1/1/1972
11-4-1-2	Paris Reports	Administration	Administrative Reports	4	8		Manuscript	1/1/1966	1/1/1983
11-4-1-2	Questionnaire for Catholic Social Services	Administration	Administrative Reports	4	9		Manuscript	1/1/1980	1/1/1980
11-4-1-2	Department of Public Welfare Inspection Reports	Administration	Administrative Reports	5	1		Manuscript	1/1/1950	1/1/1975
11-4-1-2	Department of Public Welfare Inspection Reports	Administration	Administrative Reports	5	2		Manuscript	1/1/1977	1/1/1984
11-4-1-2	Department of Public Welfare Annual Statistical Reports	Administration	Administrative Reports	5	3		Manuscript	1/1/1934	1/1/1979
11-4-1-3	Meetings	Administration	Meetings	5	5		Manuscript	1/1/1944	1/1/1944
11-4-1-5	7th and Spruce	Administration	Property and Construction	5	6		Manuscript	1/1/1835	1/1/1979
11-4-1-5	7th and Spruce - Sale of Property	Administration	Property and Construction	5	7		Manuscript	1/1/1944	1/1/1945
11-4-1-5	Germantown	Administration	Property and Construction	5	8		Manuscript	1/1/1851	1/1/1952
11-4-1-5	Germantown	Administration	Property and Construction	5	9		Manuscript	1/1/1963	1/1/1972

Manuscripts

RG Number	Title	Series Name	Sub-series	Box/Drawer	Folder	Item Number	Collection Type	DateFrom	DateTo
11-4-1-5	Germantown - Chapel	Administration	Property and Construction	5	10		Manuscript	1/1/1967	1/1/1969
11-4-1-5	Germantown - Statue of St. Joseph	Administration	Property and Construction	5	11		Manuscript	1/1/1968	1/1/1969
11-4-1-5	Germantown - Appraisal	Administration	Property and Construction	6	1		Manuscript	1/1/1975	1/1/1975
11-4-1-5	Camp Neumann	Administration	Property and Construction	6	2		Manuscript	1/1/1964	1/1/1982
11-4-1-5	Media, PA	Administration	Property and Construction	6	3		Manuscript	1/1/1914	1/1/1953
11-4-1-5	Pine Street	Administration	Property and Construction	6	4		Manuscript	1/1/1825	1/1/1840
11-4-1-5	Wayne, PA	Administration	Property and Construction	6	5		Manuscript	1/1/1946	1/1/1957
11-4-1-5	Other property	Administration	Property and Construction	6	6		Manuscript	1/1/1789	1/1/1979
11-4-2	Timelines	History		6	7		Manuscript		
11-4-2	Scrapbooks	History		6	8		Manuscript		
11-4-2	Publications and newspaper clippings	History		6	9		Manuscript	1/1/1886	1/1/2010
11-4-2	Historical sketches	History		6	10		Manuscript		
11-4-2	History - general	History		6	11		Manuscript		
11-4-3	Correspondence	Correspondence		7	1		Manuscript	1/1/1814	1/1/1899
11-4-3	Correspondence	Correspondence		7	2		Manuscript	1/1/1900	1/1/1982
11-4-4	Cash book	Financial		7	3		Manuscript	1/1/1914	1/1/1933
11-4-4	Cash book	Financial		7	4		Manuscript	1/1/1934	1/1/1941
11-4-4	Cash book	Financial		7	5		Manuscript	1/1/1941	1/1/1945
11-4-4	Financial correspondence	Financial		8	7		Manuscript	1/1/1944	1/1/1979
11-4-4	Financial - miscellaneous	Financial		8	8		Manuscript	1/1/1858	1/1/1947
11-4-4-1	Report on examination	Financial	Audited Financial Statements	8	2		Manuscript	1/1/1945	1/1/1981
11-4-4-3	Financial reports	Financial	Reports	8	3		Manuscript	1/1/1920	1/1/1984
11-4-4-3	Payroll reports	Financial	Reports	8	4		Manuscript	1/1/1926	1/1/1968
11-4-4-3	Sisters' salary account	Financial	Reports	8	5		Manuscript	1/1/1948	1/1/1956
11-4-4-3	Insurance	Financial	Insurance	8	6		Manuscript	1/1/1849	1/1/1958
11-4-4-3	Statistics	Financial	Reports	18	5		Manuscript	1/1/1880	1/1/1942
11-4-4-3	Cash book	Financial		19	2		Manuscript	1/1/1940	

Manuscripts

RG Number	Title	Series Name	Sub-series	Box/Drawer	Folder	Item Number	Collection Type	DateFrom	DateTo
11-4-4-3	Book, "The Roman Catholic Society of St. Joseph's for educating & maintaining poor orphan children", probably donors	Financial		20	1		Manuscript		
11-4-4-3	Statements of income, 1932-53 & vouchers, 1947-51 under the estate of Leandro de la Cuesta	Financial		20	2		Manuscript	1/1/1932	1/1/1953
11-4-5	Legal - correspondence	Legal		8	10		Manuscript	1/1/1944	1/1/1984
11-4-5	Licenses and certificates	Legal		8	12		Manuscript	1/1/1885	1/1/1984
11-4-5-1	Constitution, charter and bylaws	Legal	Constitution, Charter and Bylaws	8	9		Manuscript	1/1/1807	1/1/1968
11-4-5-2	Board Meeting Minutes	Legal	Board of Trustees	9	1		Manuscript	1/1/1807	1/1/1822
11-4-5-2	Board Meeting Minutes	Legal	Board of Trustees	9	2		Manuscript	1/1/1820	1/1/1844
11-4-5-3	Contracts	Legal	Contracts	8	11		Manuscript	1/1/1820	1/1/1981
11-4-5-4	Byrne, James	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	6		Manuscript	1/1/1812	
11-4-5-4	Carrell, Ellen Ann	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	7		Manuscript	1/1/1877	
11-4-5-4	Chauvenet, Louisa	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	9		Manuscript		
11-4-5-4	Chazeau, Claudine Bertholon	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	10		Manuscript	1/1/1825	
11-4-5-4	Cosgrove, Regina L.	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	12		Manuscript	1/1/1825	
11-4-5-4	Cullin, Peter	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	13		Manuscript	1/1/1867	
11-4-5-4	Diamond, Georgina Mary	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	15		Manuscript	1/1/1876	
11-4-5-4	Diamond, John	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	16		Manuscript	1/1/1819	
11-4-5-4	Diamond, Maria Eleanor	Legal	Wills and Bequests	12	17		Manuscript		
11-4-5-4	Horstmann	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	8		Manuscript	1/1/1853	1/1/1882
11-4-5-4	Kehoe, Dominick	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	9		Manuscript	1/1/1879	
11-4-5-4	Laval, Joanna	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	13		Manuscript	1/1/1884	1/1/1888
11-4-5-4	Maguire, Cecelia	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	16		Manuscript	1/1/1903	

Manuscripts

RG Number	Title	Series Name	Sub-series	Box/Drawer	Folder	Item Number	Collection Type	DateFrom	DateTo
11-4-5-4	Mahoney, Jeremiah	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	17		Manuscript	1/1/1881	
11-4-5-4	McAnally, Jane and Mary	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	18		Manuscript	1/1/1884	
11-4-5-4	McCabe, Hugh	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	19		Manuscript	1/1/1876	
11-4-5-4	McCann, James	Legal	Wills and Bequests	13	20		Manuscript	1/1/1877	1/1/1893
11-4-5-4	Wilson and Wister	Legal	Wills and Bequests	14	11		Manuscript	1/1/1868	
11-4-6	Publications	Publications		14	14		Manuscript		
11-4-7	Newspaper Clippings	Newspaper Clippings		14	15		Manuscript	1/1/1832	1/1/1983
11-4-8	Exhibits	Audio-Visual		15	2		Manuscript		
11-4-8-1	Photographs	Audio-Visual	Photographs	14	16		Manuscript		
11-4-8-1	Photographs	Audio-Visual	Photographs	14	17		Manuscript		
11-4-8-1	Photographs	Audio-Visual	Photographs	15	1		Manuscript		
11-4-8-1	Photographs of graves of early sisters, renovated fa'ade	Audio-Visual		20	5		Manuscript	1/1/1990	
11-4-8-1	Photographs of front & sides views of first home of the sisters	Audio-Visual		20	6		Manuscript	1/1/1814	
11-4-8-1	Photographs of Sisters Mary Gonzaga Grace & Mary Dowling	Audio-Visual		20	7		Manuscript		
11-4-8-1	Photographs of children & activities and buildings	Audio-Visual		20	8		Manuscript	1/1/1940	1/1/1950
11-4-8-1	Photographs of children at various activities	Audio-Visual		20	9		Manuscript	1/1/1946	1/1/1964
11-4-8-1	Photographs of various activities, alumnae reunion, Christmas etc.	Audio-Visual		20	10		Manuscript	1/1/1950	1/1/1960
11-4-8-1	Photographs of children in yard, in various activities & at Longwood Gardens	Audio-Visual		20	11		Manuscript	1/1/1940	1/1/1955
11-4-8-1	Photographs of the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving dinners	Audio-Visual		20	12		Manuscript	1/1/1960	
11-4-8-1	Photographs of children on front steps & various activities, May procession, birthdays & shows	Audio-Visual		20	13		Manuscript	1/1/1949	1/1/1951
11-4-8-1	Photographs of visits of M.H. Mothers, construction, buildings sesquicentennial celebration, etc.	Audio-Visual		20	14		Manuscript	1/1/1948	1/1/1968
11-4-8-2	Slides of the children, buildings, activities	Audio-Visual		21	1		Manuscript	1/1/1976	1/1/1978
11-4-9	Special Events	Programs / Ministries		15	5		Manuscript	1/1/1932	1/1/1944
11-4-9	Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations	Programs / Ministries		15	6		Manuscript		

Manuscripts

RG Number	Title	Series Name	Sub-series	Box/Drawer	Folder	Item Number	Collection Type	DateFrom	DateTo
11-4-9	350th Anniversary of the Daughters of Charity	Programs / Ministries		15	7		Manuscript	1/1/1983	1/1/1983
11-4-9	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Day	Programs / Ministries		15	8		Manuscript	1/1/1975	1/1/1975
11-4-9	Building Dedications	Programs / Ministries		15	9		Manuscript	1/1/1898	1/1/1984
11-4-9	Centennial Booklet	Programs / Ministries		16	1		Manuscript	1/1/1898	1/1/1898
11-4-9	Centennial Booklets	Programs / Ministries		16	2		Manuscript	1/1/1907	1/1/1914
11-4-9	Sesquicentennial	Programs / Ministries		16	3		Manuscript	1/1/1964	1/1/1964
11-4-9	Sesquicentennial - Booklet and Scrapbook	Programs / Ministries		16	4		Manuscript	1/1/1964	1/1/1964
11-4-9	Sesquicentennial - Guest Book	Programs / Ministries		16	5		Manuscript	1/1/1964	1/1/1964
11-4-9	Auxiliary - Administration	Programs / Ministries		16	6		Manuscript		
11-4-9	Auxiliary - Minutes	Programs / Ministries		16	7		Manuscript	1/1/1978	1/1/1983
11-4-9	Auxiliary - Correspondence	Programs / Ministries		16	8		Manuscript	1/1/1954	1/1/1984
11-4-9	Auxiliary - Treasurer's Reports	Programs / Ministries		16	9		Manuscript	1/1/1968	1/1/1984
11-4-9	Auxiliary - Activities	Programs / Ministries		17	1		Manuscript	1/1/1969	1/1/1982
11-4-9	Auxiliary - Sesquicentennial	Programs / Ministries		17	2		Manuscript	1/1/1963	1/1/1964
11-4-9-1	Programs	Programs / Ministries		15	3		Manuscript	1/1/1915	1/1/1991
11-4-9-1	Seton Diagnostic Reception Center	Programs / Ministries		15	4		Manuscript	1/1/1975	1/1/1979
11-4-9-1	Germantown Apostolate	Programs / Ministries		17	3		Manuscript	1/1/1972	1/1/1982
11-4-9-1	Germantown Apostolate - Meetings	Programs / Ministries		17	4		Manuscript	1/1/1973	1/1/1976
11-4-9-1	Germantown Apostolate - Immaculate Conception Parish Centennial	Programs / Ministries		17	5		Manuscript	1/1/2003	1/1/2003
11-4-10-1	Personnel - Sisters	Personnel		17	6		Manuscript		
11-4-10-1	Personnel - Sisters - Sr. Mary Gonzaga Grace	Personnel		17	7		Manuscript		
11-4-10-2	Personnel - Staff	Personnel		17	8		Manuscript		
11-4-11-2	Domestic Assemblies minutes, 1967-1990	Domestic Assemblies		22	1		Manuscript	1/1/1967	1/1/1990
11-4-11-2	Domestic Assemblies minutes, 1995-1996	Domestic Assemblies		22	2		Manuscript	1/1/1995	1/1/1996
11-4-11-3	Renovation of Vows book, 1964-1974	Vow Renovation		22	3		Manuscript	1/1/1956	1/1/1974
11-4-11-5	Daughters of Charity correspondence	Correspondence		22	4		Manuscript	1/1/1966	
11-4-12	Board of Managers Gavel	Artifacts / Memorabilia					Manuscript	1/1/1944	1/1/1944
11-4-12	Seal	Artifacts / Memorabilia					Manuscript	1/1/1864	1/1/1864
11-4-12	Plaques from Dedication of Chapel	Artifacts / Memorabilia					Manuscript	1/1/1968	1/1/1968
11-4-12	Memento with small framed Picture of Ellen Carroll, Lady Board of Managers	Artifacts / Memorabilia					Manuscript		
11-4-12	Artifacts & memorabilia	Artifacts / Memorabilia		18	2		Manuscript		
11-4-12	Contents of Cornerstone for Gonzaga Memorial	Artifacts / Memorabilia		18	3		Manuscript	1/1/1898	1/1/1898

Manuscripts

RG Number	Title	Series Name	Sub-series	Box/Drawer	Folder	Item Number	Collection Type	DateFrom	DateTo
11-4-12	Scrapbook	Artifacts / Memorabilia		21	2		Manuscript	1/1/1948	1/1/1975
11-4-13	Closing of Mission	Closing of Mission		18	4		Manuscript	1/1/1978	1/1/1984